

March 24, 1976

SENATOR ANDERSON: Mr. President, members of the legislature, LB 987 is the political accountability and disclosure Act that was introduced by the Executive Board. The committee amendments are in your bill book and deal basically with four changes which were recognized by the committee. The first change has to do with the definition of lobbying. In the bill the definition of lobbying is very broad. It describes it as a practice of promoting or opposing legislation. The committee felt that this should be more restrictive and that we define it as the practice of promoting or proposing legislation for another person, meaning he must act in a representational capacity before it becomes lobbying. The second amendment that is in your bill book changes the word lobbying to activities. This is simply a case of a word choice. Talking about defining an activity that is not lobbying and yet it was described as lobbying. This had to be changed. The third change has to do with the application of how far down Boards and Commissions would be applied for the disclosure provisions. We felt that this could be interpreted to apply to every single Board or Commission that had been created by statute anywhere including local Redistricting Board or something like this. The committee changed that so that it would be a Board or Commission of the State or any county. So this, again, was to limit the application of the Act. And then the final change was in the make-up of the Commission itself. The initial Commission that is in LB 987 is to a certain extent dominated by elected officials. There was a very strong argument that the Commission should be independent, that it should be composed of people who are free to devote their efforts to this thing and so that was changed so that the Governor and the Secretary of State remain members of the Commission and that each of them would appoint three further members to make up the 8 member Commission. So those are the amendments. I move their adoption.

PRESIDENT: Senator Lewis.

SENATOR FRANK LEWIS: Well Mr. Chairman, as the co-author along with Senator Luedtke of the bill I'd make the following observations. First of all I think that the committee amendments that we adopted are reasonable. I support the idea that the Commission have current office holders on it and I think it's adamant that we maintain that one. I think it's important for you to realize, now we've been handed voluminous amendments now, that there has been a very sincere effort to work a reasonable bill out. Now we have that. I would hope, and I believe that Senator Luedtke will concur, that we could adopt the committee amendments, adopt some technical clean up amendments that Senator Luedtke has and adopt the bill. We have deliberately placed in here a time line for correction for change. I believe it's important for us at this point in time to adopt the committee amendments, adopt the Luedtke technical amendments and no more, and move the bill in that form.

PRESIDENT: Senator Syas.